

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 30 MARCH 2006

ETHNIC MINORITIES LAW CENTRE (EMLC) – GRANT APPLICATION

Report by Executive Director of Educational and Social Services

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1** To ask Members of the Policy & Resources Committee to consider a request for funding from the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The Ethnic Minorities Law Centre was established in 1991 to address the unmet legal needs of ethnic minority communities in certain parts of Glasgow.
- 2.2** It has the overall aim of promoting racial equality through the provision of culturally sensitive legal advice, information and representation on a wide variety of issues, including racial discrimination, welfare rights, employment law, family law, housing law, debt advice and immigration.
- 2.3** The Ethnic Minorities Law Centre delivers an outreach service which covers six other areas along with East Ayrshire.

3. PROPOSAL

- 3.1** The grant funding sought for this financial year is £8,000 which is the proposed East Ayrshire contribution to enable the outreach service to continue, based on current usage from residents in East Ayrshire. There are currently 11 ongoing cases from the East Ayrshire area.
- 3.2** One of the aims of the service in next financial year is to discuss with local authorities how they increase access to mainstream agencies for the local black and minority ethnic community, to raise awareness among mainstream agencies about the issues faced by black and minority ethnic clients and to provide specialist legal services where this is appropriate.
- 3.3** Discussions will be taking place with local Citizens Advice Bureaus to consider a much closer working relationship.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1** In financial year 2005/6 Policy and Resources Committee approved a grant of £6,180 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre. It is proposed, given the financial resources available, that Committee approve a grant award of £6,365 for financial year 2006/7. This includes an inflationary uplift.

5. POLICY/LEGAL ISSUES

- 5.1** Supporting the grant application promotes the Councils commitment to equal opportunities and its requirements as a public body under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000.

6. COMMUNITY PLANNING

- 6.1** Supporting the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre is a key strand in relation to equalities which is reflected within the Community Plan.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1** It is recommended that Members of the Policy & Resources Committee:
- (i) agree a grant of £6,365 for the Ethnic Minorities Law Centre for financial year 2006/7 subject to funding from other appropriate local authorities; and
 - (ii) otherwise note the contents of the report.

John Mulgrew
Director of Educational and Social Services

KG/JW
6 March 2006

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

1. Grant Application 2006/7: CR3200.

Members wishing further information should contact Kay Gilmour, Head of Community Support, Tel: (01563) 576104.

IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER: KAY GILMOUR